

A circular stamp from the Office of Patent and Trademark Notice. The text "OIP E" is at the top, "APR 09 2002" is in the center, and "PATENT & TRADEMARK NOTICE" is at the bottom.

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For each of a plurality of components, for each of a number of possible faults, a total fault symptom strength value is calculated from measured data. If the value is above a predetermined value, the fault symptom strength is plotted and fitted to a trend line to determine an estimate of when the fault symptom strength will exceed a predetermined value. Output messages are then selected based on the fit.

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